

Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration



Temporary ("One Day") License Fact Sheet

Maria Delaney, Director

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

Charles A. Burger, Chair

Vera M. Abbott

Peter B. Feather

Eartha Isaac

Albert G. Lauber

Judy A. Moy

Audrey E. Thompson

The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration requires a temporary license applicant to file the license application 10 days in advance of the prospective event.

The following are selected highlights pertaining to the requirements of the temporary license (also commonly called a "one day" license):

- The legal drinking age in the District of Columbia is 21.
- The sale of alcoholic beverages without a license is against the law. (DC Code § 25-102(a))
- Any premise where food, nonalcoholic beverages, or entertainment are sold or provided for compensation or where the facilities are especially provided and service is rendered for the consumption of alcoholic beverages requires an ABC license to permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on that premise. (DC Code § 25-102(d))
- There are two types of temporary license:
 - Class F which permits the sale and/or service of beer and wine only; and
 - Class G, which permits the sale and/or service of spirits, beer and wine.
- The fees for a temporary license are:
 - Class F – Beer and wine -- \$130/day
 - Class G -- Spirits, beer, and wine -- \$300/day
 - Upon request, the ABC Board has the authority to reduce the fee to \$150 per day, for a class G license, or to \$50 per day, for a class F license, for nonprofit organizations. This reduction shall only be available once each calendar year to any single organization. (DC Code § 25-506)
 - The fee for a temporary license is increased according to the number of days for which the license is issued. (DC Code § 25-501)
- A temporary license permits the sale or service of alcoholic beverages during the following hours:
 - 8:00 am to 2:00 am Monday through Thursday nights;
 - 8:00 am to 3:00 am Friday and Saturday nights;
 - 10:00 am to 2:00 am Sunday night.

- on each January 1st, the licensee may sell or serve alcoholic beverages until 4:00 a.m. (DC Code § 25-723)
 - Note -- a temporary license approved by the ABC Board will specify the exact legal hours for the sale and service of alcohol under that license, which may be shorter than those listed above.
- The temporary license holder must be present at the licensed event, or utilize a ABRA licensed manager. (DC Code § 25-301)
- A temporary license applicant must be 21 years of age or older, and meet the requirements of licensure outlined in DC Code § 25-301.
- A temporary license authorizes the holder to sell or permit the consumption of alcohol at the specific time and place described in the temporary license application. Examples are such events as a banquet, picnic, bazaar, fair, or similar public gathering where food is served for consumption on the premises. (DC Code § 25-115)
- No alcoholic beverages shall be sold or served to a customer in an unopened container. (DC Code § 25-115)
- A temporary license will not be issued for more than 4 consecutive days. (DC Code § 25-115)
- The issuance of a temporary license shall be solely in the discretion of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. (DC Code § 25-115)
- The ABC Board may deny a license application if the applicant has failed to control the environment of a previous event associated with a temporary license or has sustained community complaints or police action. (DC Code § 25-115)
- A valid certificate of occupancy is required in most cases when applying for a temporary license. A certificate of occupancy shall not be required for outdoor events or private residential homes used for non-commercial purposes. However, if alcoholic beverages are to be sold or served in any outdoor

place (including but not limited to public parks, public streets or alleys), the application for the license shall particularly describe the place and the applicant shall provide the Board with a written statement indicating the owner's consent, or applicable public approval, if required. (23 DCMR 404.3)

- A temporary license holder shall permit the inspection of the license and premises by any member of the ABC Board, ABRA employee, or member of the MPD during the event for which the license was issued. (DC Code §§ 25-711 and 25-802)
- It is illegal to continue to sell/serve alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person or a person who appears to be intoxicated. (DC Code § 25-781)
- The Board may order a show cause, summary suspension, or summary revocation hearing in response to written complaints from the public about a catering event site. (23 DCMR § 2009.1) If the Board determines that disruptive activity or unlawful conduct has occurred at the event site, the Board may place restrictions upon the number, nature, or size of events permitted at a site. If the Board determines that the activity or conduct is the product of the actions of a specific caterer, the Board may fine, suspend, or revoke the Caterer's license. (23 DCMR § 2009.3)
- Applicants for a temporary license must obtain police clearance from the MPD and from the comparable authority from the state in which they reside (if not DC). (23 DCMR § 502)

For more information about the temporary license, please contact the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, Licensing Division, at (202)442-4423, or visit our web site at <http://abra.dc.gov> for a copy of the application.

(Version: 5/17/05)